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Agenda item 3
Basic programme of work of the Council

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a depositary notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 24 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 24 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations addressed to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and has the honour to forward, enclosed herewith, note No. 41/47-245 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia regarding the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (see enclosure).

Enclosure

Note verbale dated 24 January 2011 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia presents its compliments to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and, referring to the note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/2009/78 regarding the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975), has the honour to convey the following.

According to article 4, paragraph (c), of the Single Convention, the purpose of the Single Convention is to limit the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. The proposal of Bolivia contained in its letter dated 12 March 2009 (E/2009/78, enclosure) to the Secretary-General and its after-effects go beyond this purpose, having broad consequences for all the States parties to the Single Convention and production, manufacture, export, import, distribution of, trade in, use and possession of drugs derived from coca leaves. As indicated by Bolivia in its letter mentioned above, the purpose to allow coca leaf chewing for Andean indigenous people of Bolivia is a need to maintain a habit and sociocultural practice, not a medical or scientific purpose.

Now therefore, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1 (b), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia informs the Economic and Social Council that the Republic of Latvia rejects the proposed amendment to the Single Convention submitted by Bolivia.